

Appl. No. 09/303,791  
Amdt. Dated January 3, 2005  
Reply to Office action of November 3, 2004

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Withdrawn) A constant velocity joint boot comprising:  
at one end, a cylindrical neck member for receiving a shaft;  
a stem portion and an outwardly curved portion, said stem portion arranged between said neck member and said outwardly curved portion; and  
at the other end, an annular upturned member defining a longitudinal axis and including a crimping lip, said crimping lip having a thickness that is greater than said other portions of the boot, said crimping lip having a plurality of radially distributed apertures which are oriented parallel to said longitudinal axis and are approximately 35% to 70% of said crimping lip thickness for reducing the stiffness and increasing the compressibility of said crimping lip, wherein said boot is non-convoluted.
2. (Withdrawn) The constant velocity universal joint boot of claim 1, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures are a plurality of equally circumferentially spaced apart holes.
3. (Withdrawn) The constant velocity universal joint of claim 1, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures are a plurality of equally circumferentially spaced apart radially distributed cut-outs.
4. (Withdrawn) The constant velocity universal joint boot of claim 1, wherein the annular member is formed of a thermoplastic material.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)

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8. (Previously Presented) A constant velocity universal joint assembly comprising:  
a constant velocity universal joint having an outer race;  
a boot-can having a first end for mating with said outer race  
annular housing and a second flanged end spaced apart from said first end and said outer race;  
and  
a non-convoluted thermoplastic rolling-diaphragm boot  
having a crimping lip received by the second flanged end of said boot-can, said crimping lip  
having a thickness that is greater than other portions of said boot, the crimping lip having a  
plurality of radially distributed apertures for increasing the compressibility of the crimping lip  
such that said crimping lip has a compress thickness ratio approximately 50% to 70% of an  
uncompressed crimping lip thickness.
9. (Withdrawn) The constant velocity universal joint assembly of claim 8, wherein the  
plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed holes.
10. (Original) The constant velocity universal joint assembly of claim 8, wherein the  
plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed cut-outs.
11. (Previously Presented) A constant velocity universal joint and propeller shaft  
assembly comprising:  
a propeller shaft having a first end;  
a constant velocity universal joint for receiving the first end  
of the propeller shaft and including an outer race having a first face;  
a boot-can having a large-diameter end and a small  
diameter flanged end, the large-diameter end for mating with the first face of the outer race; and  
a non-convoluted thermoplastic boot having a sealing end,  
said sealing end having a tubular stem portion for receiving the propeller shaft, and an annular  
upturned edge crimpingly affixed to the smaller-diameter flanged end of the boot-can, the  
annular upturned edge having a plurality of radially distributed apertures on a radially inward  
facing surface for increasing the compressibility of the annular upturned edge, said apertures  
reduce required crimping force by up to approximately 50%, and the sealing end cooperating  
with the propeller shaft to provide a seal therewith.

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12. (Withdrawn) The constant velocity universal joint and propeller shaft assembly of claim 11, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed holes.

13. (Original) The constant velocity universal joint and propeller shaft assembly of claim 11, wherein the plurality of radially distributed apertures include a plurality of radially distributed cut-outs.

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